In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 29, as follows:

In this step, there is comparing and matching values of the elements, PC-R_j ($ppcd_j$), for j = 1 to 5, being PC-R_1 ($ppcd_1$), PC-R_2 ($ppcd_2$), PC-R_3 ($ppcd_3$), PC-R_4 ($ppcd_4$), and PC-R_5 ($ppcd_5$), in the complete set of intra-authentication mark physicochemical properties and characteristics data, PPCD[am_1 : PC-R_j ($ppcd_j$)], as referenced by **40** in the upper part of FIG. 3, relating to and representative of the imaged part of authentication mark am_1 of authentic article **12**, to values of the corresponding reference (^{R}) elements, PC-R_j ($ppcd_j$)^R, for j = 1 to 5, being PC-R_1 ($ppcd_1$)^R, PC-R_2 ($ppcd_2$)^R, PC-R_3 ($ppcd_3$)^R, PC-R_4 ($ppcd_4$)^R, PC-R_5 ($ppcd_5$)^R, ~~and~~—in the complete reference set of intra-authentication mark physicochemical properties and characteristics data, PPCD^R [am_1 : PC-R_j ($ppcd_j$)^R], of the corresponding imaged part of a reference authentication mark am_1^R, of authentic article **10**.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 35, line 8, as follows:

For authentication of an authentic article, such as authentic article ~~12~~**10**, according to an established 'authentication' criterion or specification, for example, based on having a pre-determined minimum number of 'matched' values of the data elements during and/or following the comparison of the two sets of intra-authentication mark physicochemical properties and characteristics data, **Step (e)** generates a highly accurate and unambiguous result of authentication of authentic article **10**.